

sandy post oak woods at Montopolis, near Austin, Texas. I have taken the species also at Milano in the same state.

A study of *comanche*, *subnitidus*, *californicus* and its subspecies *maricopa* shows that these forms have essentially the same habits and are all very closely and peculiarly related. Without its spines the worker *subnitidus* would be indistinguishable from the worker *californicus*, and the same relation obtains between *comanche* and *maricopa*. As it seems evident that the spined species of *Pogonomyrmex* must be more primitive than the spineless forms, it is not improbable that *subnitidus* is really the parent species of *californicus* and *comanche* the parent species of *maricopa*. If further study supports this conclusion, *maricopa* will have to be regarded as a distinct species.

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#### FORFICULA AURICULARIA IN RHODE ISLAND.

BY R. W. GLASER,

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Since all previous records of *Forficula auricularia* in America are very dubious, a report of the occurrence of large numbers of this species of earwig in Newport, Rhode Island, seems advisable.

While in Newport in July, 1914, I heard that the estate of Mr. T. Suppern Tailer was infested with earwigs and that they were making themselves extremely disagreeable by entering the house and crawling over people at night. I went to the estate and found literally hundreds of what I then supposed to be the European earwig. Mr. James A. G. Rehn of the academy of natural sciences in Philadelphia and Mr. A. P. Morse of Wellesley, Mass., have since kindly identified the species as *F. auricularia* Linn.

I found the insects hiding in all possible places during the day. They were abundant in the cracks of stone walls, under porches and behind vines. They were also taken from the inside of flowers in large numbers.

According to Mr. Tailer and his gardener, the earwigs were first noticed in 1912. In 1913 they increased to such an extent that suppression work by spraying was begun and at the time of writing this note (July, 1914), they seemed to have passed beyond control and have spread to adjoining estates. No one seems to be able

to account for the introduction of *F. auricularia* into this estate in any other way than through the agency of imported plants. Their prodigious increase can also be explained with no less difficulty, for refuse or anything which one might expect to be favorable food is not permitted to accumulate. Not having the time to devote to the subject, I was unable to determine upon what the earwigs were feeding.

It seems quite important that the matter be investigated by economic entomologists, otherwise, *F. auricularia* might soon rival the familiar and unwelcome *Blattella germanica* as a household pest.

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## A NEW STRATIOMYID

BY CHARLES W. JOHNSON,  
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This interesting fly was taken on one of my many collecting trips to the Berkshire Hills in western Massachusetts. I have delayed recording it, hoping that additional material would be obtained. In the table of genera this would go in the genus *Zabrachia* Coquillett, but the form of the antennæ would at once exclude it from that genus, while both venation and antennæ bar it from the other genera of the group. Although lacking the anterior branch of the third vein, the position of the second and third veins is nearer that of *Pachygaster* than of *Zabrachia*.

### *Berkshiria* gen. nov.

Third joint of the antennæ oblong, about double the length of the first and second taken together; third joint with five annuli, the basal one broader than the others; arista terminal, style-like, about as long as the entire antenna; front with two longitudinal ridges; transverse suture deeply impressed; scutellum large, rounded, with a broad depressed margin; third longitudinal vein without the anterior branch; ends of the terminal joints of the tarsi with bristle-like hairs. Type *B. albistylum* sp. nov.

### *Berkshiria albistylum* sp. nov.

Black; front shining, the two ridges forming deep central and orbital grooves, ocelligerous tubercle prominent; face receding, the orbits white; antenna yellow, arista white with its basal fourth black. Thorax sparsely covered with a whitish pubescence; humeri angulate with a small yellow spot at each point, a raised collar extending between the humeri, and a blunt spine on each side before the base of the